

1742 ✓
OFFICIALRECEIVED
PATENT
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE** JUN 24 2004

Applicants: Nigel Jeffrie RICKETTS et al
Serial No.: 10/031,813 Examiner: Melvyn J. Andrews
Filing Date: May 28, 2002 Group Art Unit: 1742
Title: COVER GASES
Entity Status: Large Entity
Our Docket: RR-491 PCT/US

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (16 pages total) is being transmitted via facsimile number (571) 273-1239 on the date shown below to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1420

Referred
June 24, 2004
To: (703) 872-9306

on June 18, 2004

Charles B. Rodman
Charles B. Rodman
Applicants' Attorney

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1420

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, applicants enclose a completed Form PTO-1449 listing U.S. and foreign patent documents cited by applicants.

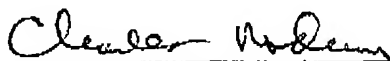
The patent documents listed were cited in a Supplementary European Search Report issued for a corresponding European patent application on March 22, 2004 (copy enclosed).

Copies of English abstracts of the foreign patent documents are enclosed. Since a first Office Action on this patent application has not yet been received, and the Supplementary European Search Report is dated less than three months before the submission of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, applicants believe that no fee is applicable for the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

However, should any fee be necessary in connection with the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, please debit our Deposit Account No. 18-1743.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the cited patent documents in the examination of this applicant.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles B. Rodman, Reg. No. 26,798
Attorney for Applicants

Dated: June 18, 2004

RODMAN & RODMAN
7 South Broadway
White Plains, New York 10601

Telephone: (914) 949-7210
Facsimile: (914) 993-0668

923-04

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Number	10/031,813
Filing Date	May 28, 2002
First Named Inventor	Nigel Jeffrie RICKETTS
Art Unit	1742
Examiner Name	Melvyn J. Andrews
Attorney Docket Number	RR-491 PCT/US

Attorney Docket Number	RR-491 PCT/US
------------------------	---------------

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. *Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). *For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. *Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



European Patent
Office

SUPPLEMENTARY EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 92 0274

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	DE 34 25 400 A (HILL STEFAN) 16 January 1986 (1986-01-16)	16	C22B9/00 C22B26/22 B22D21/04 A62D1/00
Y	* page 5, line 11 - line 26; claims 2-5 *	1-15	
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 10, 31 October 1996 (1996-10-31) & JP 08 143985 A (TOKAI RIKI CO LTD), 4 June 1996 (1996-06-04) * abstract *	1-15	
Y	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199338 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class E16, AN 1993-299895 XP002182150 & JP 05 214384 A (ASAHI CHEM IND CO LTD), 24 August 1993 (1993-08-24) * abstract *	1-15	
Y	US 5 763 701 A (DEGER HANS-MATTHIAS ET AL) 9 June 1998 (1998-06-09) * column 1, line 4 - line 9 *	1,2,5,7,14,15	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) C22B B22D A62D
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 22 March 2004	Examiner Bombeke, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document		T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date O: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

2

EPO FORM 1523 03/82 (P06004)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 00 92 0274

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

22-03-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 3425400	A	16-01-1986	DE 3425400 A1	16-01-1986
JP 08143985	A	04-06-1996	NONE	
JP 5214384	A	24-08-1993	NONE	
US 5763701	A	09-06-1998	DE 19510024 A1	02-10-1996
			AT 194824 T	15-08-2000
			DE 59605616 D1	24-08-2000
			EP 0733611 A1	25-09-1996
			ES 2150035 T3	16-11-2000
			JP 8268933 A	15-10-1996

EPO FORM P0659

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82